

Report for The Brothers Trust: The Spark Book Awards in 2022-23



Grant: £3075* Received: September 2022. Used to purchase approximately 400 books for disadvantaged children in schools taking part in the Awards

The aim of the Spark! Book Awards is to promote and encourage reading in schools, by introducing new, quality fiction to young people and building links between pupils and writers culminating in children voting for their favourite book and taking part in a variety of competitions. You can find out more about our awards here: <https://www.sparkbookawards.co.uk/>

This year we had four categories of books, and hosted 28 online events with 15 different authors. 155 schools were involved. As part of our offer, we initially helped to distribute 5,329 books to Spark! schools across the country. Our biggest concern has always been that it was only children whose families could afford to buy the books who would be able to fully engage. **This is where the support of The Brothers' Trust has been invaluable.**

You have enabled us to ensure that **all** children in participating schools can be involved, including those who would otherwise not have access to the shortlisted books. All of the funds donated both by the Brothers Trust (and from our other fundraising) are used to purchase additional copies of the shortlisted books for disadvantaged pupils as nominated by teachers.

In total, we received £4,791.28 in donations over the year. As you can see, the bulk of this money came in the form of £3,075 from the Brother's Trust which we received in September 2022.* This generosity allowed us to provide a set of shortlisted books in a selected category to disadvantaged children nominated by their teachers. In total, we provided 620 books with this funding. For some children, teachers report that these are the first books they have owned for themselves. It is hard to be specific because of the varying cost of books but approximately just over 400 books were provided as a direct result of the support of The Brothers Trust.



**"We are delighted to be taking part in the awards this year and think that the donation of books to nominated pupils is such a wonderful addition to the process for those who need support the most.
Starcross Primary School**

"The children who received free books were also hugely lacking in confidence so it was lovely to give them something to take home - a totally unexpected reward. Books were received with genuine delight. They have clearly read them and treasured them."

Strand on the Green Junior School

Thank you for inspiring our children

West Hill Primary School



Thank you, Brothers' Trust.

As you can see, your support has been invaluable to our aim of getting more children in more schools reading and we strongly hope that you will be able to continue to support our disadvantaged book fund this year. Spark! begins its process in September of selecting books and schools sign up from this time. The final shortlist and books go out to schools in January.

**The additional £75 enabled us to provide twelve shortlisted books for The Good Samaritan Primary School in Kibera, Sadly, although they had the books, an unexpected problem in the Lunchbowl organization delayed them reaching Kenya in time for the school to take part in the actual awards although they have expressed an interest in taking part next year.*

**The Spark! School Book Awards is a registered charity, no. 1199965
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